

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the labeling of irradiated

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food.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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WHEREAS the exposure of food to radiation has been promoted by the

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United States government for many years to prolong the shelf life of food

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by killing organisms, such as insects, mold, and bacteria, that damage

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food; and

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WHEREAS over the past two decades pork, potatoes, wheat, and more than

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60 spices have been approved for radiation by the United States Food and

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Drug Administration but the irradiation process has not been widely used in

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this country; and

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WHEREAS on April 18, 1986, the Food and Drug Administration extended

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its approval of irradiation to all fruits and vegetables and required the

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labeling of food at the retail level with the words "TREATED WITH RADIA-

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TION" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION" and a picture of the international symbol

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for radiation, a stylized tulip; and

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WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration presently requires that

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certain foods at the wholesale level be labeled with the words "TREATED

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WITH RADIATION--DO NOT IRRADIATE AGAIN" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION--DO NOT

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IRRADIATE AGAIN"; and

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WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration has extended the retail

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wording requirements until only April 18, 1990; and

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WHEREAS the removal of the retail wording requirements may occur

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before irradiated foods arrive in large quantities on grocery store

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shelves; and

1           WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states flatly that after  
2 reviewing all pertinent data it has not found a reason to be concerned  
3 about the safety of consuming food that has been irradiated within the  
4 dosage levels specified by federal regulations; and

5           WHEREAS, aside from concern about the reliability of the Food and Drug  
6 Administration studies, American consumers are entitled to know whether the  
7 foods, and the components of the food, that they purchase have been irradi-  
8 ated so that they can make their food choices accordingly; and

9           WHEREAS the long history of stringent labeling requirements for the  
10 chemical additives and ingredients in food provides ample precedent for the  
11 labeling of irradiated foods as irradiated;

12          BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
13 the United States Food and Drug Administration to adopt regulations re-  
14 quiring food that contains components that have been irradiated to be  
15 labeled as irradiated and to adopt permanently the current labeling re-  
16 quirements for irradiated food under 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2); and be it

17          FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that this resolution  
18 constitutes the official position and commentary of the Alaska State Legis-  
19 lature on 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2), which relate to the labeling of  
20 irradiated foods.

21          COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
22 President of the United States; the Honorable Frank E. Young, Commissioner  
23 of the United States Food and Drug Administration; and to the Honorable Ted  
24 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
25 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-  
26 gress.